

REMARKS

In response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment, Applicants have included the text of the withdrawn claims in the listing of claims section. The Amendment is now in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121.

Applicants respectfully maintain that amended independent claim 4 and dependent claims 7-13 are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by Ishii et al. either alone or in combination with Otsuka et al. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections to all of the rejected claims and that the application be promptly passed to issue.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ira Lee Zebrak

Registration No. 31,147

Attorney for Applicant(s)

Date

*Dec 12, 2006*

The BOC Group, Inc.  
575 Mountain Avenue  
Murray Hill, NJ 07974  
Phone: 908-771-6469  
Fax: 908-771-6159

CUSTOMER NO.: 020411